



Appendix E

Shipping and Daily Transporting Detector Dogs

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Daily Transporting Detector Dogs

PPQ is responsible for providing vehicles to transport detector dogs from the kennels to work sites, to other canine activities, and to return to the kennels. It is the responsibility of canine officers to maintain the vehicles.

Vehicles should be large enough to transport detector dogs in traveling crates along with the support equipment and sufficient space for air circulation. The best vehicles for transportation are passenger vans or utility vehicles.

Vehicles should be assigned permanently to detector dog activities, as long as these activities are being performed. At work locations where there are more than one detector dog team (a canine officer and a detector dog), a vehicle should be assigned to each team.

Parking should be designated in official areas as close as possible to the inspection area to facilitate unloading and loading of the detector dogs and support equipment. Vehicles may be parked at kennels if there is a time savings and the security of the vehicles justifies the action. Port directors should make the final decision.

Refer to [Appendix D, Equipment](#), under [Vehicles](#) for a list of safety requirements for vehicles.

Shipping Detector Dogs

Detector dogs can be shipped to their assigned work locations or to temporary locations to participate in temporary duty (TDY) assignments or advanced training. While being transported, detector dogs are protected by the AWA. Therefore, it is critical when shipping detector dogs, that they are transported in full compliance with the AWA.

It is the responsibility of canine officers to ensure that all safety conditions are met for shipping detector dogs. Refer to [Appendix D, Equipment](#), for safety requirements for crates and portable kennels.



Not all airlines transport dogs.

During certain times of the year, airlines impose shipping restrictions due to weather conditions.

Before Shipping

1. Within 10 days of travel, get a health certificate and letter of acclimation from the dog's veterinarian. Ask the veterinarian to provide any required vaccination or treatment. The letter of acclimation is a statement on the veterinarian's letterhead attesting that the dog is healthy and capable of becoming accustomed to a new environment or situation, such as air travel.

For trips to Hawaii, U.S. Territories, and certain foreign governments, you must check on any quarantine or health requirement needed for arriving animals at least four weeks in advance. Use [Table E-1-1](#) to find out where to check.

TABLE E-1-1: Where to Check About Needed Quarantine or Health Requirements for Arriving Animals

For information on requirements for:	Contact:
Hawaii ¹	Your State veterinarian's office or local Veterinary Services
U.S. territories: Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam	
Foreign countries	The appropriate embassy, governmental agency, consulate, or NDDTC

1 Consult Hawaii's Department of Agriculture at 808-483-7151 for information about pre- and post-arrival requirements, quarantine station procedures, policies, rules, operations, and fees.

2. When making airline reservations, do the following:
 - A. Use direct flights, whenever possible, to avoid accidental transfers or delays.

- B.** Travel on the same flight as the detector dog, whenever possible.
 - C.** A detector dog traveling by air without an accompanying handler will do so by using a Government bill of lading or a Government issued credit card.
 - D.** In the summer, choose early morning or late evening flights to avoid temperature extremes that may affect the dog.
- 3.** Contact the airline to determine if additional requirements are to be met. Arrange for the detector dog to travel in the cargo compartment of the plane. Reconfirm with the airline 24–48 hours before departure that you are transporting a detector dog.



Important

Airlines reserve the right to refuse to carry an animal for any reason.

- 4.** The portable kennel must meet airline standards and requirements. Call the airlines or consult the AWA for the minimum standards for identification, sanitation, size, strength, and ventilation. The size of the portable kennel must be big enough for the dog to comfortably stand up, lie down, and turn around.



Never use a portable kennel to ship a detector dog if the structural integrity of the kennel has been compromised in any way.

During Shipping

- 1.** Present the detector dog for transport at the airline cargo terminal no more than 2 hours before flight time.
 - A.** If you are traveling with the dog, verify with the flight crew that an animal is on board the aircraft prior to departure.
 - B.** If you are not traveling with the dog, call the party receiving the dog and let them know the dog was sent.
- 2.** Carry a leash with you so that you may walk the dog before check-in and after arrival. Do not place the leash inside the kennel, and do not attach it to the outside of the kennel (the dog may chew it).
- 3.** Carry a current photograph of the detector dog. If the dog is accidentally lost, having a current photograph will make the search easier.

After Shipping

- 1.** If you are not traveling with the dog, ask the receiving party to call when the dog arrives.
- 2.** If the dog should turn up missing during transport, immediately speak to airline personnel.
- 3.** If the dog is not found, proceed with the following steps:
 - A.** Contact animal control agencies and humane societies in the local and surrounding areas. Check with them daily.
 - B.** Contact APHIS, Animal Care regional office closest to where the detector dog was lost. (See [Appendix A, APHIS Contacts](#), for a list of regional offices in Animal Care.)
 - C.** Contact your RCPC and port director.
 - D.** Provide descriptions and photographs to the airline, local animal control agencies, and humane societies. Help can also be sought from radio stations. Leave your telephone numbers and addresses with all these people or businesses should you have to return to your work location.